

## NOTES ON ILLINOIS GRASSES

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THE following records and data have been accumulated during 1956. Specimens cited (F) are in the herbarium of the Chicago Natural History Museum; those cited (ILLS) are in the herbarium of the Illinois State Natural History Survey at Urbana.

## 1. ADDITIONS TO THE GRASS FLORA OF ILLINOIS

**Agropyron desertorum** (Fisch.) Schult. (determination verified by Dr. Jason R. Swallen). This wheatgrass was collected in the Milwaukee Road classification yard at Bensenville, Cook County, Illinois, August 9, 1956, *Thieret 2295* (F, ILLS).

## 2. ADDITIONS TO THE GRASS FLORA OF THE CHICAGO REGION

**Distichlis stricta** (Torr.) Rydb. Two thriving colonies of desert salt-grass—a species collected but once previously in Illinois, near Urbana—were found in the Milwaukee Road classification yard at Bensenville, Cook County, Illinois, August 8, 1956, *Thieret 2232* (F, ILLS).

**Aegilops cylindrica** Host. Goat grass was collected in the Milwaukee Road classification yard at Bensenville, Cook County, Illinois, August 9, 1956, *Thieret 2294* (F, ILLS).

## 3. MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

**Erianthus ravennae** (L.) Beauv. On the basis of a single collection, this cultivated ornamental grass is reported by Jones and Fuller (Vascular Plants of Illinois. Ill. State Mus. Sci. Ser., vol. 6, 1955) as spontaneous in Illinois. The following additional collections have been made near Chester, where the species shows a definite tendency to become naturalized: spontaneous (according to nearby homeowner) in road right-of-way along route 3, 0.7 mile north of north edge of Chester, Randolph County, Illinois, September 26, 1956, *Thieret 2778* (F);—spontaneous in road right-of-way along route 3, 2.1 miles north of north edge of Chester, September 27, 1956, *Thieret 2783* (F);—spontaneous according to local housewife, at least 50 flowering stalks, about 15 clumps, colony along route 150 at edge of field opposite house number 1705, east of junction of routes 3 and 150, Chester, September 27, 1956, *Thieret 2784* (F).

**Agropyron dasystachyum** (Hook.) Scribn. In Mosher's *The Grasses of Illinois* (Univ. of Ill., Agr. Exp. Sta. Bull. 205. 1918.) and in Jones and Fuller (op. cit.), this species is attributed to Illinois on the basis of the following collection: C. & N. W. R. R., west of Turner, Du Page County, Illinois, *W. S. Moffatt 231*, June 26, 1897 (F; also Univ. of Ill. Herb.). Thickspike wheatgrass is also attributed to Illinois in Hitchcock-Chase (*Manual of the Grasses of the United States*. USDA Misc. Publ. 200. 1950.), presumably on the basis of the Illinois specimen labelled *Agropyron dasystachyum* in the herbarium of the United States National Museum: on ballast, West Chicago, Illinois, June 26, 1897, *L. M. Umbach, no number* (also in F). Both the Moffatt and Umbach collections are better referred to *Agropyron smithii* Rydb. var. *molle* (Scribn. & Smith) Jones, a taxon not cited in Jones and

Fuller (*op. cit.*) and one that cannot be "keyed out" in Fernald (Gray's Manual of Botany, 8th ed. New York, 1950). There are no authentic Illinois specimens of *Agropyron dasystachyum* in the herbarium of the Chicago Natural History Museum, of the Illinois State Natural History Survey, of the United States National Museum, of the University of Illinois, of the Missouri Botanical Garden, or in that of the University of Wisconsin. Therefore, until this species is actually collected in Illinois, it must be excluded from the state flora.

The following data for culm height of several taxa are given because they exceed by a considerable margin the maximum height given for these in Hitchcock-Chase (*op. cit.*) and/or in Fernald (*op. cit.*).

**Andropogon gerardi** Vitman.—Evers found and measured culms 3.0 meters tall from a rolling prairie remnant, about seven miles south of Camp Point, Adams County, Illinois, September 14, 1956. This site, which had not been cultivated for a quarter of a century, has reverted to a type of big bluestem prairie. It has been accidentally burned on several occasions. It is pastured in early summer, but the cattle shun the tall grass by late summer and autumn. (Hitchcock-Chase, 2 m.; Fernald, 1.5 m.).

**Erianthus ravennae** (L.) Beauv., 4.57 m., *Thieret 2777* (F), lawn specimen, Chester, Randolph County, Illinois. (Hitchcock-Chase 4 m.; Fernald 3 m.).

**Sorghum vulgare** var. **drummondii** (Nees) Hask. ex Chiov.—Plants of this sorghum were growing in a cornfield along the banks of the Ohio River at Backus Landing, east of Grand Chain, Pulaski County, Illinois, September 11, 1956. The plants were as tall as, or taller than, the corn (*Zea mays* L.) in the field. Measurements made by Evers showed the plants to be 3.1 m. tall. (Hitchcock-Chase, 2 m.).

**Spartina pectinata** Link.—Prairie cord grass grows quite tall in suitable sites in Illinois. A photograph in the Illinois Natural History Survey Bulletin 13 (16): Pl. L., 1921, shows this grass as high as a buggy top, the vehicle needed by the botanist at that time in that section of the state when the roads were poor. On October 3, 1956, Mr. Hugh Cunningham, a member of the Survey staff, brought in a culm of prairie cord grass that measured 3.3 m. tall. This sample was collected along the Illinois Central R. R. south of Champaign, Champaign County. (Hitchcock-Chase and Fernald, 2 m.).—  
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